

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

Vol. X, No. 2, February, 1912

Special Notice:

Forty-second annual meeting of the Medical Society of the State of California.

Del Monte Hotel, Del Monte, April 16, 17, and 18, 1912.

Railroad rates the same as usual; one and one-third fare for the round trip. . . .

From Some Editorial Notes:

Owen Bill.—A number of requests for a copy of the last Owen bill to create a Department of Public Health have been received, and as the matter is of the greatest importance to public health, the *Journal*, elsewhere in this issue, prints the bill in full. It will probably be some time before the Congress will enact any law of this nature, and it is quite possible that when such a law is finally passed it will differ somewhat from the present proposed measure. . . .

Exploiters of Nostrums.—A good many of the most prominent physicians and surgeons in this country are helping to exploit and promote the use of some unspeakably noisome nostrums. Some of the "leaders of the profession"; some of those we are all in the habit of looking up to; some of the leaders in the American Medical Association, are doing just this, though they may not realize it. How? By contributing articles to so-called medical (?) or surgical (?) journals that accept the advertisement of these rotten things. . . .

Medical Defense.—Though the coöperative plan of defending our members in all actions for alleged malpractice has been in successful operation since July 1, 1909, and although, parenthetically, *no judgment has been entered against any practitioner in this State since that time*, a number of our members do not seem to understand it. For this reason, and for the reason that certain insurance companies have seen fit to make untrue remarks, it seems wise to set forth, in full, the general plan and scope of the work, rules, etc. The plan itself is the simplest form of coöperation; the members of the Society have decided that, through the machinery of the State Society, they will defend each other in all actions for malpractice that may be brought against members. To cover the cost, a small amount was added to the annual assessment, and it has been found to be ample. The rules laid down by the Council and prepared by our attorney, and subsequently approved by the House of Delegates, are about as simple as any rules could be.

First: All communications must be made to the Secretary of the State Society, Butler Building, San Francisco, California. This is in order to avoid confusion or doubt and concentrate all correspondence in one office.

Second: If a suit is threatened, do not wait for it to be filed, but notify the secretary immediately. The matter is then placed in the hands of our attorney and, as a rule, no suit is brought.

Third: Be sure that you are at all times in good standing (dues fully paid up) in your county society. Only members in good standing in a county society (and therefore in good standing in the State Society) will be defended.

Fourth: The alleged malpractice must have occurred after the first day of July, 1909, and at some time when the defendant was a member in good standing in his

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association work some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M.D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

The following citations have been issued returnable at the next regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners, to be held at Independent Foresters Hall, Los Angeles, commencing February 8, 1937:

Edward H. Anthony, alleged narcotic dereliction.

Robert V. Baker, violation of probation.

James H. Beggs, conviction, Pacific Coast Abortion Ring.

Samuel D. Burgeson, Jr., alleged narcotic dereliction.

Frank T. Cary, violation of Harrison Narcotic Act.

S. N. Chernyh, alleged narcotic dereliction.

John E. Cummings, continued from October meeting.

Merton E. Eastman, aiding and abetting unlicensed practitioner.

Thomas Flint, Jr., narcotic addiction.

Henry L. Gardner, continued from October meeting.

James Harvey Johnston, narcotic conviction.

Oscar Charles Long, violation of Harrison Narcotic Act.

Samuel C. Long, alleged illegal operation.

Thomas S. Long, use of fictitious name.

L. J. Otis, alleged narcotic dereliction.

Allen H. Peek, alleged narcotic dereliction.

Jesse C. Ross, conviction, Pacific Coast Abortion Ring.

Alfred H. V. St. John, conviction, Pacific Coast Abortion Ring.

Leo M. Schulman, alleged narcotic dereliction.

Francis W. Steddom, alleged narcotic dereliction.

William D. Teepell, fictitious name.

George E. Watts, conviction, Pacific Coast Abortion Ring.

Henry C. Wallace, narcotic violation.

C. B. Wiley, commitment.

Glen G. White, alleged illegal operation.

Edgar H. Williams, alleged narcotic dereliction.

Thomas D. Wyatt, continued from October meeting.

News

"California doctors apparently are not interested in \$200 a month positions with the State. The Personnel Board found it necessary to postpone two examinations for Civil Service positions because an insufficient number of doctors applied. One position, that of Assistant Medical Director of the State Industrial Accident Commission, is located in San Francisco, and pays \$200 per month for part-time work. The other position, as Assistant Surgeon in the Veterans' Home at Yountville, pays \$200 per month plus maintenance for the surgeon and his family." (United Press dispatch, dated Sacramento, December 28, and printed in the San Francisco *News* December 28, 1936.)

Recent inquiry came from Louisiana regarding an individual named S. H. Staples, who falsely claims to be a graduate of the University of California Medical School and to be licensed under the Medical Practice Act of California. Just another impostor!

"Roy L. Martin, fake eye doctor, who in April, 1931, fleeced Dan Carey of this county out of \$500 on a promise of a cure of eye trouble, has been arrested in Los Angeles County, but so many charges are awaiting him that it is doubtful if he will be returned here for trial. He will likely face federal charges of using the mails to defraud. Orange, Stanislaus, Riverside, and Sacramento counties are among other counties having charges against Martin. His arrest came as the result of a circular issued by

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.